

ECONOMICS 210A
INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC HISTORY

PAPER REQUIREMENT

Nature of the Paper

A key requirement for the course is preparation of a research paper. The paper should seek to be a genuine contribution to knowledge, not a summary of the existing literature. Such contributions to knowledge can take many forms:

- A comment on an existing paper.
- Collection of new data analyzed with simple summary statistics.
- An empirical analysis.
- A theoretical analysis with significant historical importance and context.

Desirable Characteristics

A good paper will start with a clearly posed question and then propose a way of answering the question. The paper may be about any topic in economic history; it does not have to be about material covered in class, and it does not have to be about Europe or the United States. The papers do not need to be long; successful papers are likely to be in the 10–20-page range.

Timetable

To ensure that you have time to develop your ideas and complete the necessary research, we have established various check points and deadlines.

- **Paper Ideas.** You must submit a brief (1–2 pages) sketch of 2 or 3 possible paper ideas by Sunday, March 8 (5 p.m.).
- **Meeting.** You must meet with one of the course instructors during the week of March 9th. We will hold extra office hours that week to make sure everyone has time to meet.
- **Paper Prospectus.** A more fully fleshed out paper prospectus (2–4 pages) is due on Friday, March 20th (5 p.m.).
- **Final Paper.** The final paper is due on Friday, May 8th (5 p.m.).